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and expository rather than critical, as the author's purpose is to supply the reader with a brief survey of the origin of the conferences and the results actually achieved by the two which have thus far been held.

The text of each document is followed by a clear and critical analysis of the convention as a whole, its most important provisions are examined in the light of their origin and international practice, and elaborate references to the proceedings in the conferences and the opinion of competent publicists are given.

Mr. Higgins' commentary is admirably done. He keeps a sense of proportion throughout, his criticism is keen and searching, as, for example, in his examination of paragraph "h" of Article XXIII of the laws and customs of war on land (pp. 263-265). As in this instance, so in others, he does not force his view upon the reader. He states impartially the proceedings of the conference and the interpretation of governments and publicists, leaving the reader in possession of the facts, so that he may, in the fullness of knowledge, decide for himself.

It is difficult to give a more precise idea of Professor Higgins' volume without going into very considerable detail. Enough has been said, it is hoped, to show the very great value of the work, and it is believed that a careful and impartial examination of the book as a whole, as well as the method of presentation, will justify the conclusion that it is, without question, the most useful work dealing with the origin, nature and results of the two conferences which has yet been published. Indeed, it is difficult to see how it could be improved upon, and English scholarship, as well as the reading public, are to be congratulated upon its appearance.

JAMES BROWN SCOTT.

Le Traité de Francfort. By Gaston May. Paris: Berger-Levrault et Cie. 1909. pp. xix, 338.

This book is, as Professor May tells us in the introduction, the development of a series of lectures given at the Law School of the University of Paris. The reviewer had the pleasure of being present at some of them. Every year a course of lectures is devoted to a profound study of a treaty or a certain class of treaties, and this year when Professor May replaced his colleague, Professor Pillet, he chose for his subject the series of diplomatic documents containing the agreements by virtue of which the conflict between France and Germany was brought to an end.

One can but admire the perfect sense of proportion shown in the treat-

ment; the truly French ability to arrange all the multitudinous details of these complicated negotiations so that the relation of each part to the whole is preserved. The criticisms throughout are straightforward, courageous, and fair — even though we may not always be quite convinced that the motives of the German negotiators have been correctly understood.

The care with which the sources have been studied and the well-selected references throughout make this one the most scholarly works on diplomatic history. It is much to be regretted that the narrow, antiquated, and hide-bound conservation of the French Foreign Office should make it impossible for a learned scholar, belonging to a national university and engaged in such an important work, to consult its archives. Surely the old world has much to learn regarding the advantages of publicity. Because of the esoteric spirit of the foreign offices of European countries it is well nigh impossible to get at the most important documents relating to the history of the last century. Our own country has earned the gratitude of jurists and scholars by its publication of annual volumes relating to its foreign affairs and by authorizing Professor Moore's monumental Digest of International Law.

This book teaches a great lesson as to the necessity for every country to have at hand trained diplomatists in its hour of need — a diplomatic contest must always follow the struggle of armed forces upon the field of battle. Professor May shows how a better knowledge of the principles of international law might possibly have enabled Jules Favre to withstand Bismarck's demand for the ransom of Paris. We are shown how the needless delays of the French negotiators at Brussels and their failure to draw up protocols of all their meetings, taken with their untenable attitude on certain questions, aggravated still more the disadvantageous situation of France. The work will constitute a real contribution to the study of diplomatic negotiations and will elucidate many points of historical interest in relation to one of the most important if not the most important event of the last half of the nineteenth century.

ELLERY C. STOWELL.

A History of the New England Fisheries with maps. Raymond McFarland. New York: D. Appleton & Company. 1911. pp. 457.

The New England fisheries are not so important at the present day as they were from the Colonial period to the end of the Civil War. Industry and commerce have developed to an unexpected degree and have